

BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1968

PRESENTED BY  
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



## AREA No. 5 · SOUTH WEST DEVON

*DARTMOUTH and TOTNES Municipal Boroughs*

BUCKFASTLEIGH  
KINGSBRIDGE  
SALCOMBE

} Urban  
Districts

KINGSBRIDGE  
PLYMPTON ST. MARY  
TAVISTOCK  
TOTNES

} Rural  
Districts

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*With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health.*



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# URBAN DISTRICT OF BUCKFASTLEIGH.

## Annual Report on the Health of the Area for the year 1968.

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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT.

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1968.

p r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Report on the Health of the District during 1968, drawn up along the lines suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 1/68, dated January, 1969. Included in the Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

The number of births increased to 35 which makes the Standardised Birth Rate 18.5 per thousand. This is above the National Average of 16.9. Deaths dropped to 44 making a Standardised Death Rate of 12.8 per thousand, slightly above the National Average of 11.9. There were no infant deaths.

Sixty eight per cent of deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation, the majority of these being in persons over the age of 75 years. Cancer caused just under 14% of deaths, distributed fairly evenly over the age groups from 45 years onwards. Diseases of the lungs accounted for only 3% of deaths and these were all in elderly people

Only one infectious disease was notified, namely, a case of measles. Now that immunisation against measles is available it is hoped that the illness will become as rare as poliomyelitis and diphtheria.

Again I wish to thank all Members of the Council and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

John Wildman.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1969.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1968.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mary E. Budding, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (Also Surveyor).

G.T.W. Allen, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Council Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Buckfastleigh.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman

Councillor Revd.J.W.Timms, C.C.

Chairman of the Council

Councillor P.J. Lee, J.P.

and

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

M.O.H. Central Office.

Area No.5 - South West Devon,  
Public Health Department.  
Council Offices,  
Plympton, Plymouth. Tel. Plymouth 36644.

M.O.H.Clerk.

Miss G.Prowse.

Tel. Plymouth 36644.



## S E C T I O N   A .

### VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1968.

Table 1.

Figures for 1967 are shown in brackets.

#### POPULATION:

##### Estimated Mid-Year Population of Buckfastleigh Urban District.

2,510 (2,530)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	+ 9	(- 14)
Migration in or out	...	...	- 29	(+ 24)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	- 20	(+ 10)
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	2,558	(2,558)

#### GENERAL STATISTICS:

##### Area of Buckfastleigh Urban District in Acres.

1,365

##### Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books.(1st April).

1,025 (1,027)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	0.751	(0.753)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	1.840	(1.854)
Number of Persons per house	...	...	2.449	(2.463)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	396	(396)

##### Rateable Value of District.(1st April).

£100,638 (£100,012)

##### Sum Represented by a Penny Rate.

£395 (£394)



# VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1968.

Table 2.

Figures for 1967 are shown in brackets.

## BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 18.5 (16.8)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... ... 1.33 (1.33)

### Number of Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	20	15	35
Legitimate	16	15	31
Illegitimate	4	0	4
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	0	0	0

## DEATHS:

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 12.8 (13.5)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... ... 0.73 (0.74)

### Number of Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages - Total</u>	23	21	44
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.</u>	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 0.0 (0.0)

## COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES:

Birth Rate 16.9 (17.2) Death Rate 11.9 (11.2)

Infantile Mortality Rate 18.0 (18.3)  
(Infants under 1 year of age)



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One case of Measles, in a child of 6 years, was notified during the last quarter of the year.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47. - No statutory action was necessary for the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Section 50. - No burials took place under this Section of the Act.



CAUSES OF DEATH 1968.

								<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	21	44
B18 Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...						0	1	1
B19(2) Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	...	...						1	0	1
B19(3) Malignant neoplasm - breast	...	...	...					0	1	1
B19(4) Malignant neoplasm - uterus	...	...	...					-	1	1
B19(6) Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	...	...						2	1	3
B26 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	...	...					1	0	1
B28 Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...				10	4	14
B29 Other forms of heart disease	...	...	...					0	5	5
B30 Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	...	...				2	4	6
B46(5) Other diseases of circulatory system...	...							1	3	4
B32 Pneumonia...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	0	1
B33(1) Bronchitis and emphysema...	...	...	...					1	1	2
B34 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	0	1
B46(7) Other diseases of digestive system	...	...						1	0	1
B42 Congenital anomalies	...	...	...	...	...			1	0	1
BE48 All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...			1	0	1



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### 1. Hospitals.

A general practitioner hospital with 15 mixed medical and surgical beds is situated in Ashburton. Other hospitals which serve the district are Newton Abbot Hospital and Torbay Hospital. There is a maternity unit at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes, to which many of the Buckfastleigh mothers are admitted for their confinement.

#### 2. County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the aftercare of such persons.

One district nurse/midwife works in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held twice a month and the health visitor for the area is in attendance. The Home Help Service is provided by the County Council and the local Organiser, Mrs. Clarke, has her office at 43, Fore Street, Totnes. Telephone Totnes 2663. A chiropody service is provided by the County Council and has been made available for the handicapped, aged, and expectant mothers. A chiropody clinic operates at Buckfastleigh Health Centre for a whole day once a month. (Telephone Buckfastleigh 2534).

#### 3. Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

#### 4. Health Centre.

This was opened in May, 1966, and provides surgery accommodation and clerical help for two General Medical Practitioners as well as clinic facilities for Devon County Council Services.



#### 5. Mass Miniature Radiography.

Facilities were available at Totnes and Newton Abbot for the general public to visit the Mass Radiography Unit, which called regularly every fortnight at those towns.

#### 6. Mental Health.

Arrangements for treatment under the Mental Health Act, 1959, can be made either by the patient's own doctor or by the Mental Welfare Officer at "Rosabelle", Plymouth Road, Totnes. Telephone Totnes 3534.

#### 7. Family Planning Service.

A clinic is held at the Adult Education Centre, Shinnars Bridge, Dartington, on the third Tuesday afternoon of alternate months beginning in January of each year. Appointments can be made by the Appointments Secretary, Family Planning Association, 4, Barnfield Hill, Exeter. Telephone Exeter 76892 (on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

#### 8. Cervical Cytology.

A cervical cytology clinic for the early detection of cancer in women is held once a month at the Buckfastleigh Health Centre, Telephone Buckfastleigh 2534. All women between the ages of 30 and 60 years of age are eligible to apply for a test.

#### 9. Meals on Wheels.

This voluntary service continued throughout the year and between 10 and 12 meals on average were provided twice a week. The meals were cooked at Buckfast Abbey, due to the generosity of the Abbot. Twenty volunteer Helpers distributed the meals under their Organiser, Mrs. S.M. Palk.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. Refuse.

No change in the collection of refuse has taken place during the year, but a small increase in the amount put out is evident.

The old area of the Tip made available to Contractors has now been well covered and sealed with inert matter, and is ready, when required, for the reception of household refuse again, whereupon the Contractors will transfer to the area now being used for domestic refuse.

#### 2. Sewage Disposal.

The Works are running most efficiently but the handicap of the very strong influent, as referred to in the last Report (1967), still gives cause for concern. This concern is shared by the Devon River Authority which has asked that, before any new substantial development is approved, they be consulted.

#### 3. Sewerage.

During the year our Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Harvey, McGill & Hayes, had an intensive examination of the sewers made by means of a T.V. camera, and various leaks and fractures were discovered, as also were three or four manholes. These defects revealed a great amount of infiltration water, and application has been made to the Ministry for consent to the remedial works necessary.

#### 4. Caravans.

There are two licensed caravan sites in the district, one of which is owned by the Council. Both are well run and managed.

#### 5. Factories. (See also Section F.).

This Local Authority is responsible for enforcing the provisions in the Factories Act, 1961, relating to sanitary conveniences, and the Regulations made in connection with these, in all factories. The District Council is also responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, and drainage of floors, in all factories not using mechanical power.

Part 8 of the Factories Act, 1961, deals with home work and the provisions relating to this are enforced by the District Council. There are no outworkers in the town.



## 6. Swimming Pool.

Samples of the water from the swimming pool were taken during the season, and upon their evaluation at the end of the season it was recommended that a continuous chlorination plant be installed. This was accepted by the Public Health Committee and it is hoped that such a plant will be installed next year.

## 7. Rodent Control.

During the year a fairly extensive survey of the sewers was made by means of a T.V. camera and, incidental to the survey, the Rodent Officer also "sat in" to see if there was any evidence of a rat population. I am glad to report that no evidence was found.

A small dispersal was reported upon the demolition of some old factory buildings.

## 8. Pest Control.

There is no nuisance in the town arising from pigeons, but there has been an increase in the number of requests for the destruction of wasps' nests. These have been done free of charge where it was considered that the wasps could be a danger to road users, particularly pedestrians.

## 9. Water.

Water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board. It is upland surface water collected on Dartmoor, reaching the district by gravity from a large storage reservoir. The water is chlorinated, and hardened by adding soda ash. The treated water is not plumbo-solvent.

The South West Devon Water Board carry out bacteriological examinations at regular intervals. No contamination of the water has been reported. The quality and quantity of the water was satisfactory throughout the year.

## 10. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The total number of premises affected is only 4, and, apart from the offices, other premises are being inspected under other Acts.

No changes, other than personnel, took place during the year under review. All conditions were again found to be satisfactory according to the Act.



## SECTION D.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### 1. Food Premises.

There were 36 food premises operating in the district during the year, and this figure includes 16 cafes, hotels and restaurants, and 20 retail food shops. All were visited and found to be well-managed and clean.

#### 2. Food Hygiene.

The high standard of hygiene by all food handlers is being maintained.

#### 3. Unsound Food.

A small quantity of tinned food was surrendered, again apparently due to bad warehousing.

#### 4. Meat Inspection.

Meat inspection was carried out as in previous years.

Two slaughterhouses cater for the district. The following is a table showing the meat inspected and the quantity condemned:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. killed	173	-	554	-	727
No. inspected	173	-	554	-	727
No. of entire carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
No. of carcasses of which some part was condemned	7	-	-	-	7



## SECTION E.

### HOUSING.

#### 1. General.

Of the 1,025 inhabited houses in the district 396 were owned by the Council.

Forty Cornish Unit type houses were insulated by injecting expanded Polystyrene into the roof and wall cavities, resulting in a great improvement to the comfort of the tenants.

#### 2. Housing Survey.

A short row of about 20 houses in Silver Street was re-inspected with a view to clearance, but the inspection revealed that above half were up to standard and so no Order was made.

#### 3. Improvement Grants.

Improvement grants were approved in respect of 7 properties in the Town. The Council also approved works of improvement to 20 Council houses in Glovers Park, which will receive a grant under the Act.

#### 4. Infestation.

One case of infestation occurred during the year, attributable to a guard dog kept by an infirm old lady. The house was vacated, bedding and clothing steam disinfested, and the house cleaned out.



SECTION F.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following is a summary of information required in respect of the year 1968. A total of 84 inspections was made in respect of 36 premises listed in the Factories Register.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power.  
(Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6).

Number on Register	...	...	...	2
Inspections	...	...	...	5
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power.  
(Section 7).

Number on Register	...	...	...	28
Inspections	...	...	...	48
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

(iii) Other Premises under the Act.  
(Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworkers' Premises).

Number on Register	...	...	...	6
Inspections	...	...	...	31
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

See table overleaf.



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were made
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			By H.M. Insp.	To H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (making)	-	-	-	-	-	-





